

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for providing multimedia content over a network, comprising the steps of:

(a) connecting at least one multimedia device to at least one media server storing a plurality of selectable multimedia clips over a communications network;

(b) selecting at least one of said plurality of selectable multimedia clips for playing by said at least one multimedia device;

(c) generating a playlist wherein said selected at least one of said plurality of selectable multimedia clips is included therein;

(d) transferring said generated playlist from said selected media server to said at least one multimedia device; and

(e) rendering said playlist.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said communications network is a local home communications network.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said communications network is a public communications network.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said public communications network is the Internet.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said playlist file comprises audio data.

6. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

(e) displaying a list of said media servers available to said at least one multimedia device; and

(f) selecting one of said media servers from said list of said media servers available to said at least one multimedia device.

7. A method for providing multimedia content over a network, comprising the steps of:

(a) displaying a list of one or more media servers storing a plurality of selectable multimedia clips available to one or more multimedia devices;

(b) selecting a media server from said list of one or more media servers;

(c) connecting said one or more multimedia devices to said selected media server;

(d) selecting at least one of said plurality of selectable multimedia clips for rendering by said one or more multimedia devices;

(e) transferring said selected at least one of said stored plurality of selectable multimedia clips from said selected media server to said one or more multimedia devices; and

(f) rendering said selected at least one of said plurality of selectable multimedia clips.

8. A networked based multimedia delivery system comprising:

(a) at least one multimedia device having input means and display means through which a user may request multimedia clips and output means through which requested multimedia clips may be played;

(b) at least one media server in communications with said at least one multimedia device for generating a playlist file containing multimedia clips and providing said playlist file to said at least one multimedia device in response to said user's request for multimedia clips; and

(c) a local home communications network for interfacing said at least one multimedia device with said at least one media server.

9. The networked based multimedia delivery system of claim 8 further comprising:

(d) an access link for connecting said local home communication network to said at least one media server over a public communications network; and

(e) an access gateway for translating communications protocols between said local home communications network and said access link.

10. The networked based multimedia delivery system of claim 9 wherein said public network is the Internet.

11. The networked based multimedia delivery system of claim 8 wherein said playlist is comprised of XML.

12. The networked based multimedia delivery system of claim 8 wherein said multimedia device is designed to

(a) be automatically configured on said local home communications network;

(b) resolve a host name in a URL using DNS call;

(c) issue HTTP request;

(d) receive HTTP responses containing MIME objects;

(e) display WML and HTML content;

(f) parse said playlist;

(g) interactively search a database of track, album, and playlist information;

(h) mix said playlist with local content; and

(i) receive channels of multimedia clips from said media server.

13. The networked based multimedia delivery system of claim 8 wherein said multimedia device is designed to

- (a) be automatically configured on said local home communications network;
- (b) issue HTTP request;
- (c) receive HTTP responses containing MIME objects
- (d) display WML and HTML content;
- (e) parse said playlist; and
- (f) mix said playlist with local content.

14. A networked based multimedia delivery system comprising:

- (a) at least one media server for generating a playlist file from a plurality of centrally stored multimedia clips in response to a user request; and
- (b) at least one multimedia device in communications with said at least one media server for generating said user request, wherein said at least one multimedia device is further used to receive and parse said generated playlist file.

15. The networked based multimedia delivery system of claim 14 wherein said generated play list comprises XML.

16. A multimedia device for use in a network based multimedia delivery system comprising:

- (a) means for automatically configuring the multimedia device on a communications network;
- (b) means for displaying at least one media server in communications with the multimedia device over said communications network, wherein said at least one media server has a plurality of stored multimedia clips;
- (c) means for interactively searching said plurality of stored multimedia clips using all or a portion of a text string;

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(d) means for passively searching said plurality of stored multimedia clips;

(e) means for requesting at least one of said plurality of stored multimedia clips from said at least one media server;

(f) means for receiving a remotely generated data file from said at least one media server over said communications network, wherein said remotely generated data file is comprised of said requested at least one of said plurality of stored multimedia clips;

(g) means for parsing said remotely generated data file; and

(h) means for displaying said remotely generated data file with local data.